

# **WILDERNESS RANCH 1 THROUGH 5 (PWS 4080055) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT**

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**December 26, 2002**



## **State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**

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## Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the wells and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5, Boise County, Idaho*, describes the public drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 (PWS #4080055) drinking water system consists of three wells, Gallery #1, Gallery #2, and Gallery #3. The wells are located approximately 0.4 miles from Highway 21 on Robie Creek Road, along the north side of Mores Creek. According to the 1996 Sanitary Survey, Gallery #1 ran dry, Gallery #2 could be made available, however, it is considered to be under the influence of surface water, and Gallery #3 produces most of the water for the system. Together, the wells supply 385 people through 186 connections.

Final susceptibility scores are derived from equally weighting system construction scores, hydrologic sensitivity scores, and potential contaminant/land use scores. Therefore, a low rating in one or two categories coupled with a higher rating in other categories results in a final rating of low, moderate, or high susceptibility. With the potential contaminants associated with most urban and heavily agricultural areas, the best score a well can get is moderate. Potential contaminants are divided into four categories, inorganic contaminants (IOCs, i.e. nitrates, arsenic), volatile organic contaminants (VOCs, i.e. petroleum products), synthetic organic contaminants (SOCs, i.e. pesticides), and microbial contaminants (i.e. bacteria). As different wells can be subject to various contamination settings, separate scores are given for each type of contaminant.

In terms of total susceptibility, Gallery #1 and Gallery #2 rated automatically high for IOCs, and moderate for VOCs, SOCs, and microbial bacteria. Gallery #3 rated automatically high for IOCs, and high for VOCs, SOCs, and microbial bacteria. System construction scores rated moderate for Gallery #1 and Gallery #2, and high for Gallery #3. Hydrologic sensitivity rated high for Gallery #1 and Gallery #3, and moderate for Gallery #2. Land use scores in each well rated moderate for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials. The automatically high IOC rating is due to a September 1998 detection of arsenic above its maximum contaminant level (MCL).

No SOC's or microbials have ever been detected in the tested water. The IOC's copper, fluoride, mercury, arsenic, and nitrate have been detected in the tested water. In addition, naturally occurring radiation, sodium, and sulfate were present in samples. Concentrations of each element or compound have been significantly within EPA's allowable limits except the IOC arsenic. Arsenic has been detected in concentrations of 70 parts per billion (ppb), which is higher than the MCL set by EPA of 50 ppb. In 2001, the EPA lowered arsenic's MCL from 50 to 10 ppb. However, water systems have until 2006 to meet the new requirement. The VOC's bromodichloromethane (December, 1992 and August, 1993) and chloroform (August, 1993), both disinfection byproducts related to chlorine, were detected in the system. Although water cannot be totally free of byproducts when disinfection is used, they can be reduced by treatment modifications ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)).

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a "pristine" area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources. If the system should need to expand in the future, new well sites should be located in areas with as few potential sources of contamination as possible, and the site should be reserved and protected for this specific use.

For the Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 system, drinking water protection activities should first focus on correcting any deficiencies outlined in the sanitary survey (an inspection conducted every five years with the purpose of determining the physical condition of a water system's components and its capacity). Actions should be taken to keep a 50-foot radius circle around the wellhead clear of potential contaminants. Any contaminant spills within the delineation should be carefully monitored and dealt with. As much of the designated assessment areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5, collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Because the arsenic in the well has exceeded the level of the MCL, the Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 water users may need to consider implementing engineering controls to monitor and maintain or reduce the level of this contaminant in the water system.

The EPA plans to provide up to \$20 million over the next two years for research and development of more cost-effective technologies to help small systems meet the recently revised MCL. EPA (2002) recently released an issue paper entitled *Proven Alternatives for Aboveground Treatment of Arsenic in Groundwater*. This issue paper discusses various treatment options for arsenic and given examples of where each of these technologies have been applied. A copy of this paper can be found at the following EPA website ([http://www.epa.gov/tio/tsp/download/arsenic\\_issue\\_paper.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tio/tsp/download/arsenic_issue_paper.pdf)).

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan as the delineation is near residential land uses areas. Public education topics could include proper lawn and garden care practices, household hazardous waste disposal methods, proper care and maintenance of septic systems, and the importance of water conservation to name but a few. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the EPA. A primary source of potential contaminants comes from the transportation corridor (Highway 21) within the delineation.

Therefore the Department of Transportation or other federal agencies should be involved in protection activities.

A community must incorporate a variety of strategies in order to develop a comprehensive drinking water protection plan, be they regulatory in nature (i.e. zoning, permitting) or non-regulatory in nature (i.e. good housekeeping, public education, specific best management practices). For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Boise Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

# **SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR WILDERNESS RANCH 1 THROUGH 5, BOISE COUNTY, IDAHO**

## **Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment**

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this assessment means.** Maps showing the delineated source water assessment area and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are included. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings used to develop the assessment also is included.

### **Background**

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the wells and aquifer characteristics.

### **Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment**

Since there are over 2,900 public water sources in Idaho, there is limited time and resources to accomplish the assessments. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. An in-depth, site-specific investigation of each significant potential source of contamination is not possible. **Therefore, this assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treatment of a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a drinking water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or drinking water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

## **Section 2. Conducting the Assessment**

### **General Description of the Source Water Quality**

The Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 (PWS #4080055) drinking water system consists of three wells, Gallery #1, Gallery #2, and Gallery #3. The wells are located approximately 0.4 miles from Highway 21 on Robie Creek Road, along the north side of Mores Creek. According to the 1996 Sanitary Survey, Gallery #1 ran dry, Gallery #2 could be made available however it is considered to be under the influence of surface water, and Gallery #3 produces most of the water for the system. Together, the wells supply 385 people through 186 connections.

No SOC's or microbials have ever been detected in the tested water. The IOC's copper, fluoride, mercury, arsenic, and nitrate have been detected in the tested water. In addition, naturally occurring radiation, sodium, and sulfate were present in samples. Concentrations of each element or compound have been significantly within EPA's allowable limits except the IOC arsenic. Arsenic has been detected in concentrations of 70 ppb, which is higher than the MCL set by EPA of 50 ppb. In 2001, the EPA lowered arsenic's MCL from 50 to 10 ppb, however, water systems have until 2006 to meet the new requirement. The VOC's bromodichloromethane (December, 1992 and August, 1993) and chloroform (August, 1993), both disinfection byproducts related to chlorine, were detected in the system. Although water cannot be totally free of byproducts when disinfection is used, they can be reduced by treatment modifications ([www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)).

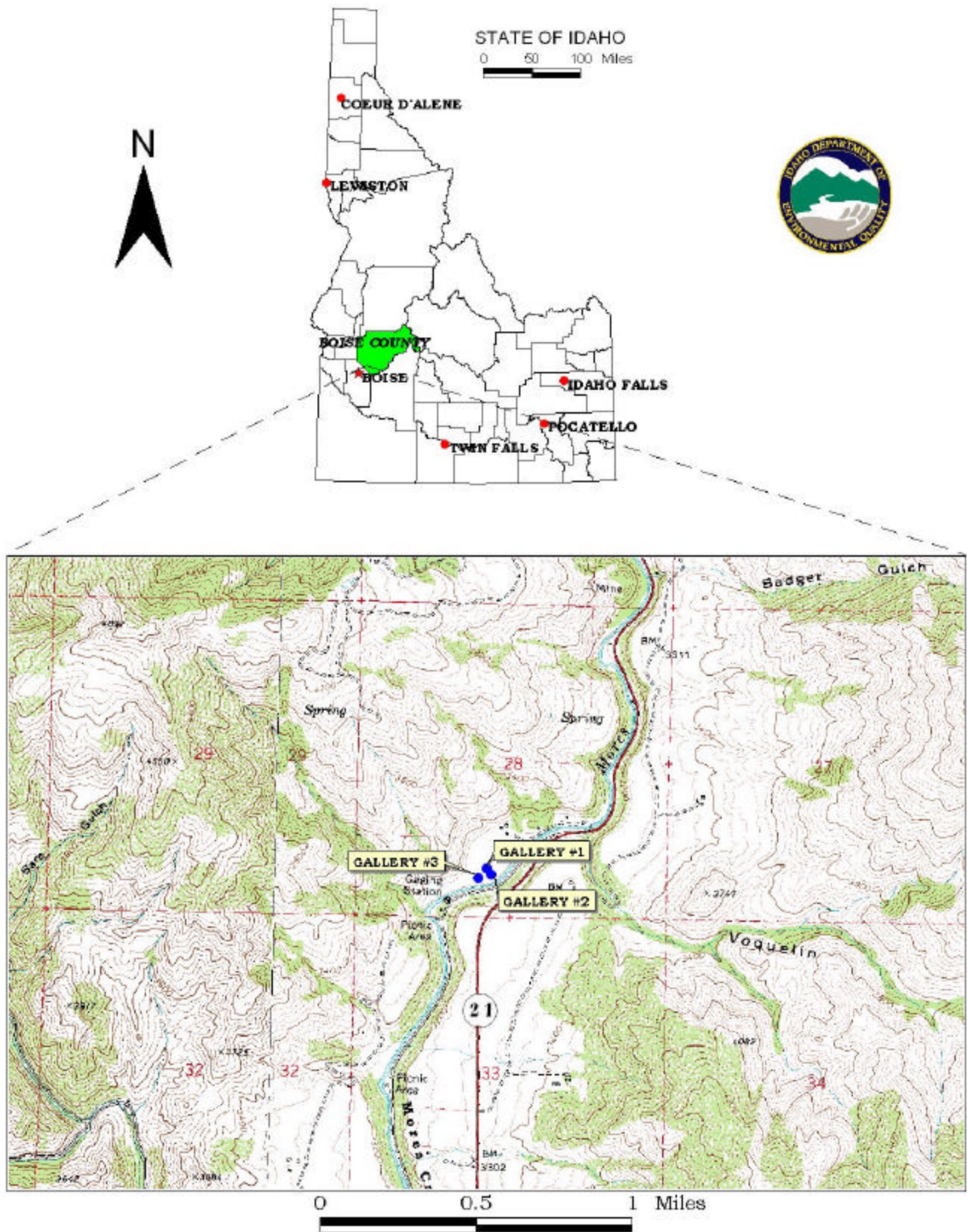
### **Defining the Zones of Contribution – Delineation**

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into time-of-travel (TOT) zones (zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a well) for water in the aquifer. DEQ developed the delineation using a refined analytical element computer model approved by the EPA in determining the 3-year (Zone 1B), 6-year (Zone 2), and 10-year (Zone 3) TOT. The computer model used site specific data, assimilated by DEQ from a variety of sources including Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 well logs, other local area well logs, , and hydrogeologic reports (detailed below).

### **General Geology for the Mores Creek aquifer system**

The Mores Creek province lies in the southern part of the Northern Rocky Mountain Physiographic Province, just north of the Snake River Plain subdivision of the Columbia Plateau Physiographic Province. Soils formed in alluvial and colluvial sediments and on bedrock surfaces. The Mores Creek Basalt apparently erupted from vents and inundated the ancestral Mores Creek Valley (Otheberg, 1994). Subsequent erosion by Mores Creek has exposed the basalt in the canyon. Surficial soils are underlain by biotite granodiorite rock ("granite") of the Idaho Batholith, which is the predominant rock type in the region (Kiilsgard et al., 1997).

**FIGURE 1. Geographic Location of Wilderness Ranch 1 Through 5**





Northeast-trending faults occur throughout the area. These faults are not known to be active and form part of the trans-Challis Fault System that extends over 60 miles from the Boise Front to east central Idaho. Springs, topography, stratigraphic relations, and lithologic changes often are used to infer fault locations. These are high-angle normal faults that often form grabens (Idaho Geological Survey, 1991). The fault zones are described as shear zones (Scanlan, 1986), which can be filled with clayey fault gouge. In shear zones where fault gouge is not present the crushed rock acts as a zone of high permeability.

## **Climate**

Precipitation at Idaho City has averaged about 23 inches per year from 1917 to 1995, with most precipitation occurring from November through March. The temperature during these months ranges from 23.5 °F to 34.2 °F (www.worldclimate.com). Discharge is measured in Mores Creek at Robie Creek near the Arrowrock Dam (USGS Station 13200000). The long term median flow values are based on 51 years of data. The long term median peak flow in April and May is 846 cubic feet per second (cfs), with the long term median low flow of about 40 cfs from July through October (www.id.waterdata.usgs.gov).

## **Southern End of Mores Creek Delineations**

The system well logs as well as the surrounding well logs show that the water table generally follows Mores Creek. Water from the rising topography to either side of the creek flows towards the creek. Water from upstream flows downstream towards Lucky Peak Reservoir. Kiilsgard et al. (1997) shows numerous faults in the area that could control recharge. Therefore, boundary conditions were assigned to the Kelly Gulch Fault to the northwest. Other local faults were added to various simulations as no flow boundaries to investigate flow direction. As the faults could be flux boundaries, final delineations were allowed to cross fault traces. A flux of water was added along the Kelly Gulch Fault to match test points in Daggett and Robie Creeks. With the downgradient constant head at Lucky Peak, the model's water table gradient was constrained.

Despite the large quantities of water in the valley, recharge was kept quite low (0 to 0.85 inches per year) since the major rock type is granite.

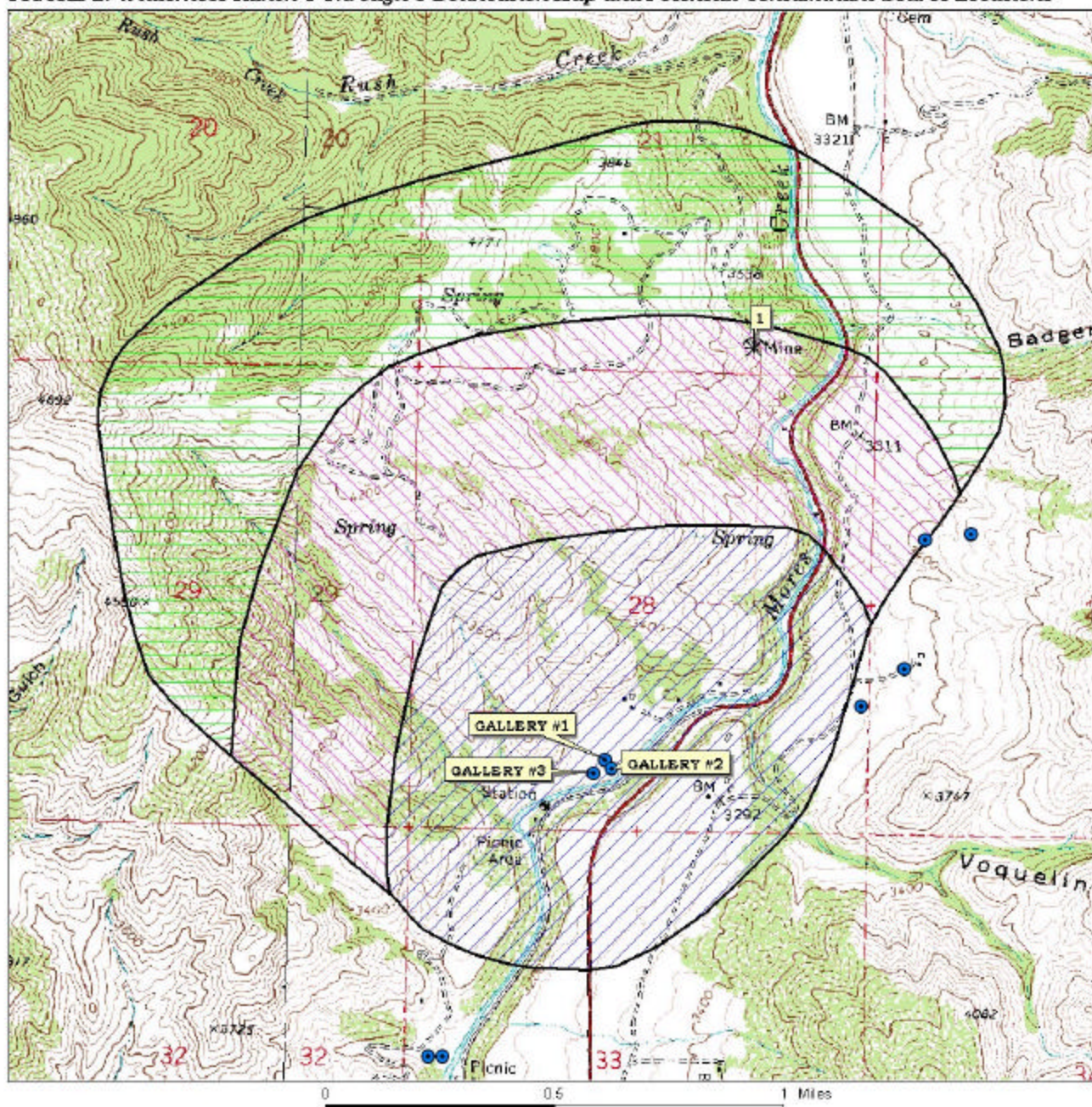
## **Mores Creek Rim Ranch Water District #1, #2, #4; Ranch Subdivision; Wilderness Ranch**

These eight wells were modeled simultaneously to take into account well interference. The well logs show that the producing zones are mostly in white or brown granite (except for Mores Creek Rim Ranch #4). In each case, the static water table relative to Mores Creek and the nearby wells fits the overall potentiometric surface of the creek. As exact elevations for the ground surface of the wells is not known, the potentiometric surface depths cannot be compared.

The delineated source water assessment area for the Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 wells can best be described as a sector north of the wells with a radius approximately 1.25 miles long, between the northwest and northeast direction bearings (Figure 2).



FIGURE 2. Wilderness Ranch 1 Through 5 Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations



**PWS# 4080055**  
**GALLERY #1, #2, & #3**

## Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of groundwater contamination. The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation areas were obtained by field surveys conducted by DEQ and from available databases. Land use within the area surrounding the Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 wells is predominately forested lands.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided they are using best management practices. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination, including educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply well.

## Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A two-phased contaminant inventory of the study area was conducted in April and May 2002. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 source water assessment area (Figure 2) through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps developed by DEQ. The second, or enhanced, phase of the contaminant inventory involved contacting the operator to identify and add any additional potential sources in the delineated areas.

The delineated source water area for the wells (Figure 2, Table 1) have their potential contaminants outlined below. Sources include an unnamed mine or mining claim, Highway 21, and Mores Creek.

**Table 1. Wilderness Ranch, Gallery #1, Gallery #2, Gallery #3, Potential Contaminant Inventory and Land Use**

SITE #	Source Description	TOT Zone <sup>1</sup> (years)	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants <sup>2</sup>
1	Unnamed Mine or Mining Claim	3-6 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
	Highway 21	0-3 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, microbial
	Highway 21	3-10 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC
	Mores Creek	0-3 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, microbial
	Mores Creek	3-10 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC

<sup>1</sup> TOT = time-of-travel (in years) for a potential contaminant to reach the wellhead

<sup>2</sup> IOC = inorganic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical

### **Section 3. Susceptibility Analyses**

Each well's susceptibility to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. Attachment A contains the susceptibility analysis worksheets. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

#### **Hydrologic Sensitivity**

The hydrologic sensitivity of a well is dependent upon four factors: the surface soil composition, the material in the vadose zone (between the land surface and the water table), the depth to first ground water, and the presence of a 50-foot thick fine-grained zone (aquicard) above the producing zone of the well. Slowly draining soils such as silt and clay typically are more protective of ground water than coarse-grained soils such as sand and gravel. Similarly, fine-grained sediments in the subsurface and a water depth of more than 300 feet protect the ground water from contamination.

Gallery #1 rated high for hydrologic sensitivity. Area soils are moderately- to well-drained, the vadose zone is predominantly topsoil and decomposing granite, the water table is only 73 feet deep, and no aquicard is present.

Gallery #2 rated moderate for hydrologic sensitivity. Area soils are moderately- to well-drained, and the water table is only 68 feet deep. Positively affecting the score is the fact that the vadose zone is composed of the highly impermeable material clay, and an aquicard is present above the producing zone of the well.

Gallery #3 rated high for hydrologic sensitivity. Area soils are moderately- to well-drained, the vadose zone is predominantly decomposing granite, the water table is at the surface, and no aquicard is present.

#### **Well Construction**

Well construction directly affects the ability of the well to protect the aquifer from contaminants. System construction scores are reduced when information shows that potential contaminants will have a more difficult time reaching the intake of the well. Lower scores imply a system is less vulnerable to contamination. For example, if the well casing and annular seal both extend into a low permeability unit, then the possibility of contamination is reduced and the system construction score goes down. If the highest production interval is more than 100 feet below the water table, then the system is considered to have better buffering capacity. If the wellhead and surface seal are maintained to standards, as outlined in sanitary surveys, then contamination down the well bore is less likely. If the well is protected from surface flooding and is outside the 100-year floodplain, then contamination from surface events is reduced.



Gallery #1 rated moderate for system construction. According to the well log, the well was drilled to 260 feet below ground surface (bgs) in 1980. A 5-inch diameter steel casing 0.250-inches thick was seated 248 feet bgs into decomposed white granite in the 260 foot deep bore hole. A pudding clay annular seal was placed 20 feet bgs into topsoil. The wellhead is located outside of the 100-year floodplain and the well's highest production comes from more than 100 feet below static water level. The score was increased because neither the casing nor annular seal extend into low permeability units, the casing has a smaller diameter than the minimum allowed, and it is unknown if the casing and surface seal are maintained and meet standards.

Gallery #2 rated high for system construction. According to the well log, the well was drilled in 1981 to a depth of 140 feet bgs through clay and granite. A six-inch diameter 0.250-inch thick steel casing was placed to 120 feet bgs. A screen was installed between 122 and 132 feet bgs, and an annular seal was placed 80 feet bgs into brown clay and granitic sand. The well is located outside of the 100-year floodplain and the annular seal extends into a low permeability unit, positively affecting the score. However, the highest production comes from less than 100 feet below static water level, the casing is thinner than current regulations allow and is not seated into a low permeability unit, and it is unknown if the wellhead and surface seal are maintained.

Gallery #3 rated high for system construction. According to the well log, the well was drilled to 280 feet bgs in 1981. A 6-inch diameter steel casing 0.250-inches thick was seated 40 feet bgs into decomposed white granite and a 50D PVC pipe with perforations between 65 and 226 feet bgs was placed into white decomposed granite. A pudding clay annular seal was placed 20 feet bgs into white decomposed granite. The wellhead is located outside of the 100-year floodplain. However, the well's highest production does not come from more than 100 feet below static water level, neither the casing nor annular seal extend into low permeability units, the casing thickness is smaller than current regulations allow, and it is unknown if the casing and surface seal are maintained and meet standards.

Current PWS well construction standards are more stringent than when the wells were constructed. The Idaho Department of Water Resources *Well Construction Standards Rules* (1993) require all PWSs to follow DEQ standards as well. IDAPA 58.01.08.550 requires that PWSs follow the *Recommended Standards for Water Works* (1997) during construction. Some of the regulations deal with screening requirements, aquifer pump tests, use of a downturned casing vent, and thickness of casing. Table 1 of the *Recommended Standards for Water Works* (1997) lists the required steel casing thickness for various diameter wells. Six-inch diameter casings require a casing thickness of 0.280 inches. The wells were assessed an additional system construction point because they did not meet current regulations.

### **Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use**

All three of the wells rated moderate for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials. The low number of potential contaminant sources within the delineation contributed to the scores.

## Final Susceptibility Ranking

A detection above a drinking water standard MCL, any detection of a VOC or SOC, or a detection of total coliform bacteria or fecal coliform bacteria at the wellhead will automatically give a high susceptibility rating to a well despite the land use of the area because a pathway for contamination already exists. Additionally, potential contaminant sources within 50 feet of a wellhead will automatically lead to a high susceptibility rating. Hydrologic sensitivity and system construction scores are heavily weighted in the final scores. Having multiple potential contaminant sources in the 0 to 3-year time of travel zone (Zone 1B) contribute greatly to the overall ranking. In this case all three wells rated automatically high for IOCs due to a detection of arsenic above its MCL in the distribution system.

**Table 2. Summary of Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 Susceptibility Evaluation**

Well	Susceptibility Scores <sup>1</sup>									
	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
Gallery #1	H	M	M	M	L	M	H*	M	M	M
Gallery #3	M	M	M	M	L	H	H*	M	M	M
Gallery #7	H	M	M	M	L	H	H*	H	H	H

<sup>1</sup>H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility,  
 IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical  
 H\*= automatic high due to arsenic above MCL in distribution system

## Susceptibility Summary

The Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 (PWS #4080055) drinking water system consists of three wells, Gallery #1, Gallery #2, and Gallery #3. The wells are located approximately 0.4 miles from Highway 21 on Robie Creek Road, on the north side of Mores Creek. According to the 1996 Sanitary Survey written by DEQ, Gallery #1 ran dry, Gallery #2 could be made available, however it is considered to under the influence of surface water, and Gallery #3 produces most of the water for the system. Together, the wells supply 385 people through 186 connections.

In terms of total susceptibility, Gallery #1 and Gallery #2 rated automatically high for IOCs, and moderate for VOCs, SOCs, and microbial bacteria. Gallery #3 rated automatically high for IOCs, and high for VOCs, SOCs, and microbial bacteria. System construction scores rated moderate for Gallery #1 and Gallery #2, and high for Gallery #3. Hydrologic sensitivity rated high for Gallery #1 and Gallery #3, and moderate for Gallery #2. Land use scores in each well were moderate for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials. The automatically high IOC rating is due to a September 1998 detection of arsenic above the maximum contaminant level.

## **Section 4. Options for Drinking Water Protection**

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective drinking water protection program is tailored to the particular local drinking water protection area. A community with a fully developed drinking water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5, drinking water protection activities should first focus on correcting any deficiencies outlined in the sanitary survey. Actions should be taken to keep a 50-foot radius circle clear around the wellheads. Any spills within the delineation should be carefully monitored and dealt with. As much of the designated protection area is outside the direct jurisdiction Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5, making collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups are critical to the success of drinking water protection. The wells should maintain sanitary standards regarding wellhead protection.

Because the arsenic in the well has exceeded the level of the MCL, the Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 water users may need to consider implementing engineering controls to monitor and maintain or reduce the level of this contaminant in the water system.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan as the delineation is near residential land uses areas. Public education topics could include proper lawn and garden care practices, household hazardous waste disposal methods, proper care and maintenance of septic systems, and the importance of water conservation to name but a few. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the EPA. A primary source of potential contaminants comes from the transportation corridor (Highway 21) within the delineation. Therefore the Department of Transportation or other federal agencies should be involved in protection activities.

A community must incorporate a variety of strategies in order to develop a comprehensive drinking water protection plan, be they regulatory in nature (i.e. zoning, permitting) or non-regulatory in nature (i.e. good housekeeping, public education, specific best management practices). For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Boise Regional Office of the DEQ or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

## **Assistance**

Public water supplies and others may call the following DEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the DEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Boise Regional DEQ Office (208) 373-0550

State DEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact Melinda Harper ([mlharper@idahoruralwater.com](mailto:mlharper@idahoruralwater.com)), Idaho Rural Water Association, at 1-208-343-7001 for assistance with drinking water protection (formerly wellhead protection) strategies.



## POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

### LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

**AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks)** – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

**Business Mailing List** – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

**CERCLIS** – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund, is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

**Cyanide Site** – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

**Dairy** – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

**Deep Injection Well** – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

**Enhanced Inventory** – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

**Floodplain** – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

**Group 1 Sites** – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

**Inorganic Priority Area** – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

**Landfill** – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

**LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank)** – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

**Mines and Quarries** – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

**Nitrate Priority Area** – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

**NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)** – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

**Organic Priority Areas** – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

**Recharge Point** – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

**RICRIS** – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

**SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities)** – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

**Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)** – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

**UST (Underground Storage Tank)** – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

**Wastewater Land Applications Sites** – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

**Wellheads** – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

**NOTE:** Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.

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[www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

[www.id.waterdata.usgs.gov](http://www.id.waterdata.usgs.gov)

## Attachment A

### Wilderness Ranch 1 through 5 Susceptibility Analysis Worksheets

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)
- 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.375)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

- 0 - 5 Low Susceptibility
- 6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility
- $\geq 13$  High Susceptibility

## 1. System Construction

SCORE

Drill Date	05/28/1980	
Driller Log Available	YES	
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1997
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	YES	0
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0
Total System Construction Score		4

## 2. Hydrologic Sensitivity

Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2
Total Hydrologic Score		6

## 3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	RANGELAND, WOODLAND, BASALT	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	YES	2	2	2	2
(Score = # Sources X 2 ) 8 Points Maximum		4	4	4	4
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	2	2	2	
4 Points Maximum		2	2	2	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		6	6	6	4

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II

Contaminant Sources Present	YES	2	2	2	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		3	3	3	0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III

Contaminant Source Present	YES	1	1	1	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		2	2	2	0

## Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score

11 11 11 4

4. Final Susceptibility Source Score	12	12	12	12
5. Final Well Ranking	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

## 1. System Construction

SCORE

Drill Date	09/25/1981	
Driller Log Available	YES	
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1997
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0
Total System Construction Score		5

## 2. Hydrologic Sensitivity

Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	NO	0
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	YES	0
Total Hydrologic Score		3

## 3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	RANGELAND, WOODLAND, BASALT	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	YES	2	2	2	2
(Score = # Sources X 2 ) 8 Points Maximum		4	4	4	4
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	2	2	2	
4 Points Maximum		2	2	2	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		6	6	6	4

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II

Contaminant Sources Present	YES	2	2	2	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		3	3	3	0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III

Contaminant Source Present	YES	1	1	1	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		2	2	2	0

## Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score

11 11 11 4



4. Final Susceptibility Source Score	10	10	10	10
5. Final Well Ranking	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

## 1. System Construction

SCORE

Drill Date	10/01/1981	
Driller Log Available	YES	
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1997
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0
Total System Construction Score		5

## 2. Hydrologic Sensitivity

Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2
Total Hydrologic Score		6

## 3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	RANGELAND, WOODLAND, BASALT	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		0	0	0	0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	YES	2	2	2	2
(Score = # Sources X 2 ) 8 Points Maximum		4	4	4	4
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	2	2	2	
4 Points Maximum		2	2	2	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	NO	0	0	0	0
Land use Zone 1B	Less Than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	0
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		6	6	6	4

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II

Contaminant Sources Present	YES	2	2	2	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Land Use Zone II	Less than 25% Agricultural Land	0	0	0	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		3	3	3	0

## Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III

Contaminant Source Present	YES	1	1	1	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	NO	0	0	0	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		2	2	2	0

## Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score

11 11 11 4

4. Final Susceptibility Source Score	13	13	13	13
5. Final Well Ranking	High	High	High	High